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Boston, Mass.

A Brief Description of ye
Ancient Town, and also of
the Best Way to Get There

Together with an Account of the
Foundation of the Publick Schools.

Illustrated with Artistick Engravings.

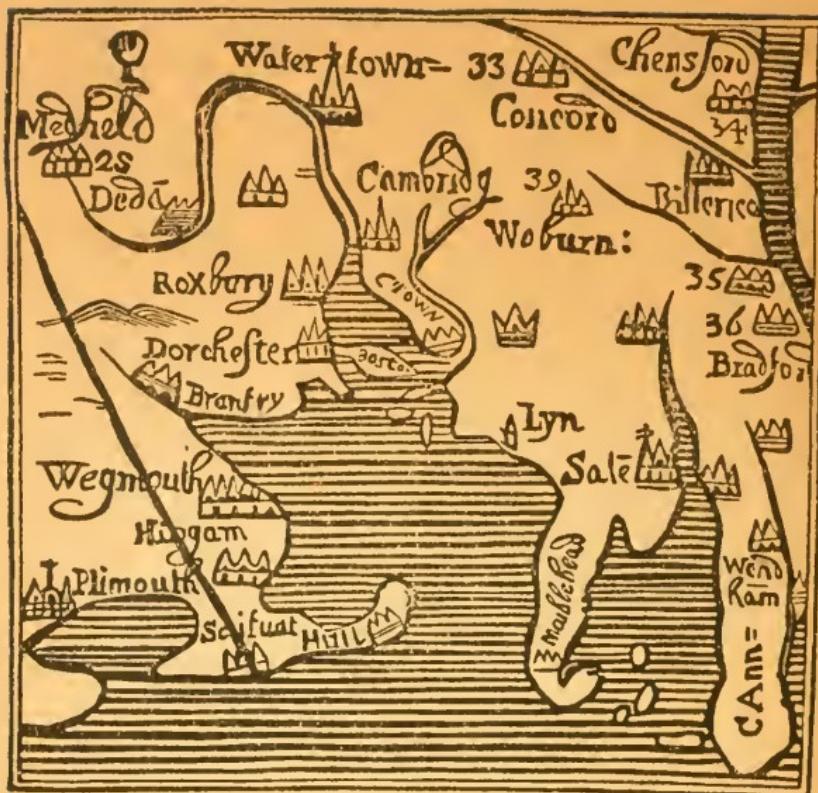


For the Use of
School Teachers

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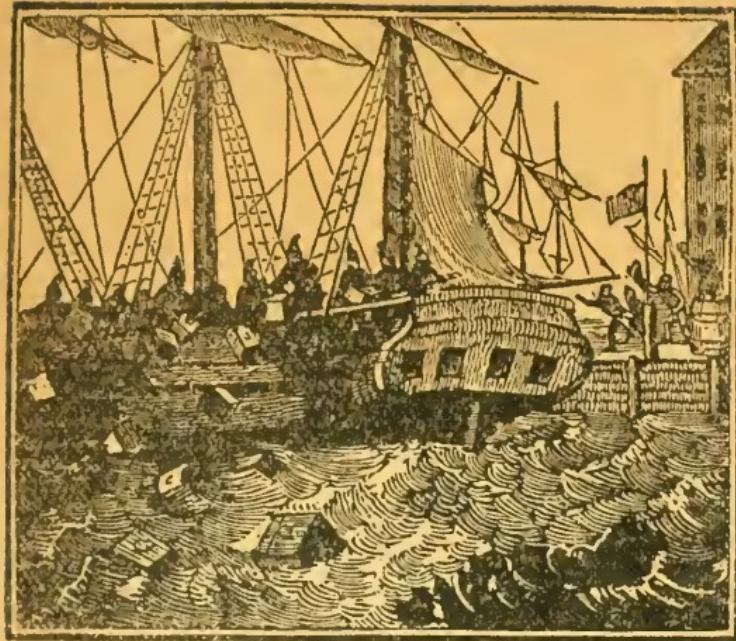
OF COMMERCIAL



Ancient Map of Massachusetts Bay.

New-England— * * * * In 1610 Mr. Robinson, a dissenting Minister, with other English, then at Leyden, obtain'd a Grant from King James I. to plant themselves in *New-England*, about Hudson's River, and enjoy the Liberty of their Conscience. They sail'd from *Plimouth* in September, for the South of *New-England*, but escaping many Dangers, were about the 11th of November cast upon a bosom of *Cape-Cod*, in Massachuset's Bay. Winter drawing on apace, wanting opportunity to remove and being encouraged by the Soil and Courtesie of the Heathen, they founded a New Colony, calling it *New-Plimouth*, (because *Plimouth* was the last Town they sailed from in *England*) extending about 100 Miles in length, but not half so broad.—*Morary's Dictionary, 1694.*

[Here followeth much discourse concerning divers sorts of People judged to be Tartars by Descent, namely the *Churchers*, *Tarantines*, *Monhegans*, *Pequets*, *Maragansets*, *Matachusets*, *Philistines*, and others, not pertinent to our present Purpose, nor entirely suitable to young persons.]



The Boston Tea Party.

The Capital of Massachusetts.

BOSTON, the capital of Massachusetts, is seated in the bottom of Massachusetts Bay, in $42^{\circ} 23'$ N. lat. and $71^{\circ} 4'$ W. long. The peninsula that it covers projects into the inner bay or harbour, lying between Point Shirley and Point Alderton, of which the entrance is filled with islands. In the village there is supposed to be an actual population of 30,000 souls; but the latest census, that of the year 1801, exhibits only 25,000. The number of houses may be 3,000.

Boston, on whichever side it is approached, makes a very striking appearance. The ground on which it is built is uneven; and on one of the hills is the new state house, an edifice which, by its elevation and by the dome that is on its roof, crowns in the happiest manner all the buildings that lie low, and that form the base of the pyramid of which the state house is the apex. Boston is seated on a small peninsula, which projects to the northeast; and the main streets are approached from Providence, by a very wide one, running on the neck

of land, and in part paved, and in part lined with buildings.

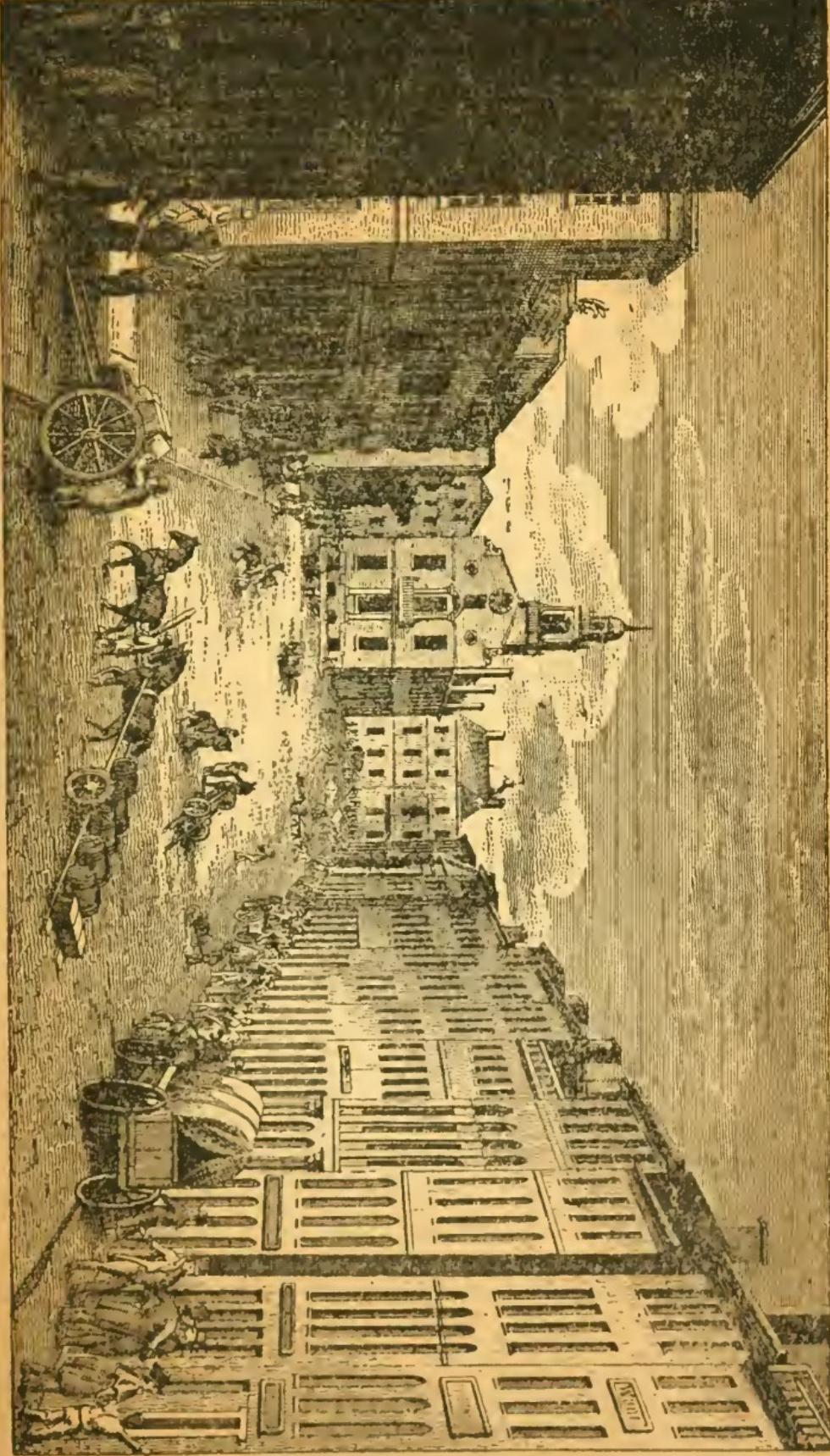
To the southeast of Boston, distant about forty miles, is Plymouth, the oldest of the settlements in New England, and hence in Boston called by the name of the Old Colony.

* * * * *

The buildings are generally of brick, and all the new ones, more than ten feet high, are now, in consequence of several losses by fire, required to be of brick or stone. * * * * Red bricks, of a fine clay, are imported from Philadelphia into Boston; and as the humidity, together with the frosts, is found to bring on a speedy destruction of their substance, an attempt has been made, with what success remains to be seen, to render them impenetrable by saturation with molasses.—*Kendall's Travels, 1808.*

The public buildings are the old State House, now converted into offices, stores, etc.; a court house, a theatre, concert hall, Faneuil Hall, gaol, an almshouse, lately erected at the northwest part of the town, spacious and commodious, and the most elegant building of the kind in the United States. Franklin Place, adjoining Federal Street Theatre, is a great ornament to the town; it contains a monument to Dr. Franklin, from whom it takes its name, and is encompassed on two sides with elegant buildings. Here are kept, in spacious rooms, given and fitted up for the purpose, the Boston Library, and the valuable collections of the Historical Society. Most of the public buildings are handsome, and some of them are elegant; particularly the new State House, erected on the south side of Beacon Hill, fronting the Mall, the corner stone of which was laid with great formality and parade on the 4th of July, 1795. This building overtops the monument on Beacon Hill, and is one of the most elegant in the United States.

State Street and Old State House, 1800.

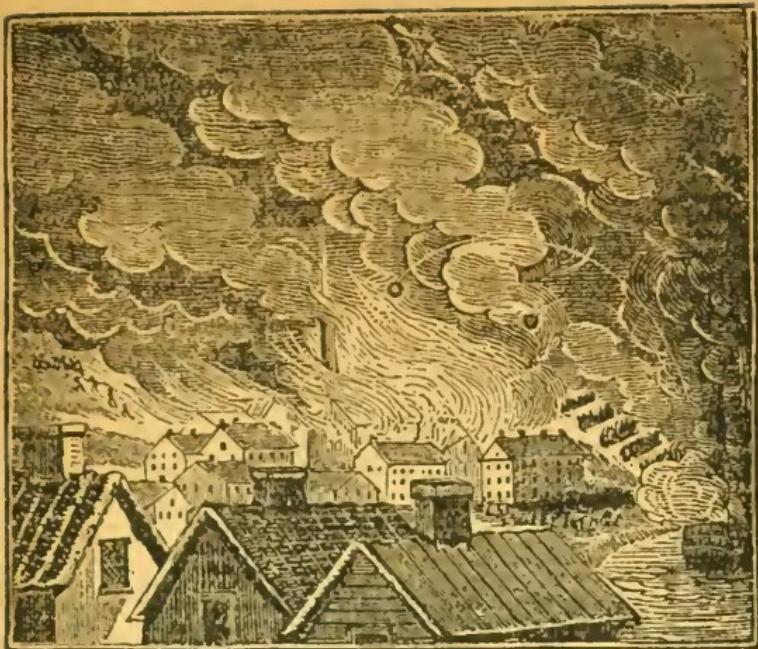


The dome, 50 feet diameter and 30 feet high, is terminated with an elegant circular lanthorn, supporting a gilt pine cone, an emblem of one of our principal staples.

* * * * *

The stairs are spacious, and two flights of them lead to the top of the outer dome, 170 steps from the foundation. This flight affords an uninterrupted view of one of the finest scenes in nature. Indeed, the beauty and advantages of this situation which induced the Legislature to make choice of it for the present building, are acknowledged by both natives and foreigners. It vies with the most picturesque scenes in Europe, and will bear comparison with the Castle Hill of Edinburgh, the famous Bay of Naples, or any other most commanding prospect. The neighboring towns and villages with their lofty spires; the distant hills adorned with splendid country seats, fields, orchards, and gardens; the bay and ocean sprinkled with islands, and enlivened by boats and vessels, give variety to the rich and delightful prospect.

The Market Place, in which Faneuil Hall is situated, is supplied with all kinds of provisions which the country affords. The fish market in particular, by the bounteous supplies of the ocean and rivers, not only furnishes the rich with the rarest productions, but often provides the poor with a cheap and grateful repast. Boston Harbour is formed by Point Alderton on the south, and by Nahant Point on the north. The harbour is capacious enough for 500 vessels to ride at anchor in good depth of water; whilst the entrance is so narrow as scarcely to admit two ships abreast. It is variegated with about forty islands, of which fifteen only can be properly called so; the others being small rocks or banks of land, slightly covered with verdure. These islands afford excellent pasturage, hay, and grain, and are agreeable places of resort in summer to parties of pleasure. Fort Independence, on Castle Island,

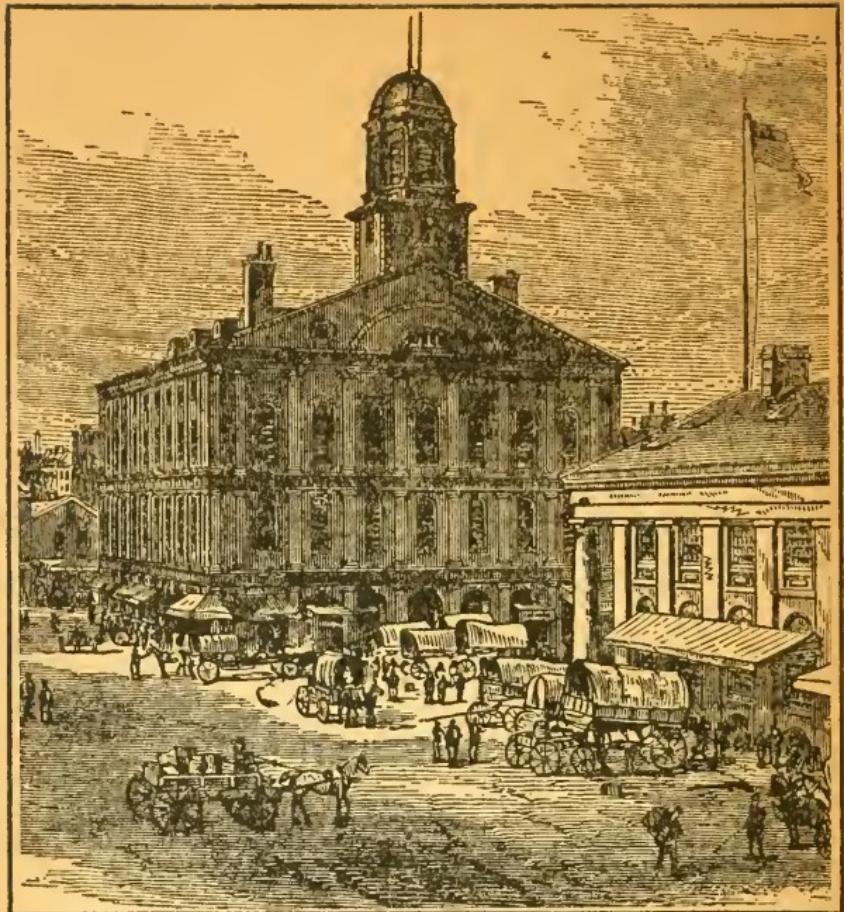


Burning of Charlestown.

formerly Castle William, about three miles east of Boston, is a very strong fortress, lately built by the Government of the United States, at a great expense, and defends Boston Harbour. It is a regular, strong, enclosed work; the ramparts of stone and brick, with a magazine, fortress, barracks, and other buildings; commenced in the year 1800, and were completed in 1803.

* * * * *

The view of the town, as it is approached from the sea, is truly beautiful and picturesque. It lies in a circular and pleasingly irregular form round the harbour, and ornamented with spires, above which the Monument of Beacon Hill rises, which is now, however, overtopped by the new State House. On the base of the Monument are inscriptions, commemorating some of the most remarkable events of the late war. Beacon Hill is the highest ground on the peninsula, and affords a delightful and extensive prospect. The Common below it contains about forty-five acres always open to refreshing breezes; on its east side is the Mall, a very pleasant walk about 500 yards in length, adorned with rows of trees, to which an

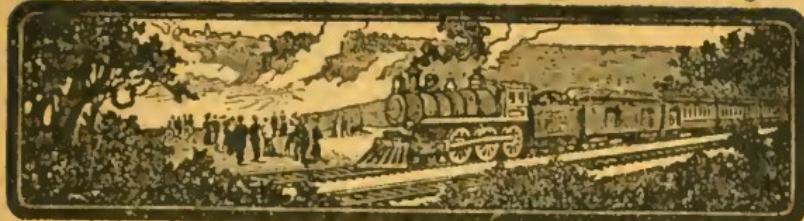


Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market.

addition of about 100 yards has been lately made. Charles River and West Boston bridges are highly useful and ornamental to Boston; both are on Charles River, which mingles its waters with those of the Mystic River, in Boston harbour.

* * * * *

Seven Free Schools are supported here at the public expense, in which the children of every class of citizens may freely associate together. The number of scholars is computed at about 900, of which 160 are taught Latin, etc. There are besides these many private schools. The principal societies in the Commonwealth hold their meetings in this town, and are, the Marine Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Massachusetts Charitable Society, Boston Episcopal Charitable Society, Massachusetts Historical Society,



Society for Propagating the Gospel, Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society, Massachusetts Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Medical Society, Humane Society, Boston Library Society, Boston Mechanics Association, Charitable Fire Society, and Massachusetts Missionary Society.

* * * * *

Boston was settled as early as 1631, from Charlestown; it was called Shaumet by the Indians; Trimountain by the settlers in Charlestown, from the view of its three hills; and had its present name in token of respect to the Rev. Mr. Cotton, a minister of Boston, in England, and afterward minister of the first church here. Boston was greatly damaged by an earthquake October 29, 1727, and since that time has suffered severely by numerous fires, the houses being mostly built of wood. The last large fire happened July 30, 1794, and consumed ninety-six houses, rope walks, etc., and the account of the losses given in by the sufferers amounted to \$209,861. It was in Boston that the Revolution originated which gave independence to America, and thence flew like an electrical shock throughout the Union. It suffered much at the commencement of the war, by the loss of an extensive trade, and other calamities. Boston feels a pride in having given birth to Benjamin Franklin, and a number of other patriots, who were among the most active and influential characters in effecting the revolution. Great improvements have been made in the streets, buildings, and police of this town, within a few years.

* * * * — *Jedidiah Morse's Gazetteer, 1810.*

Boston Schools.

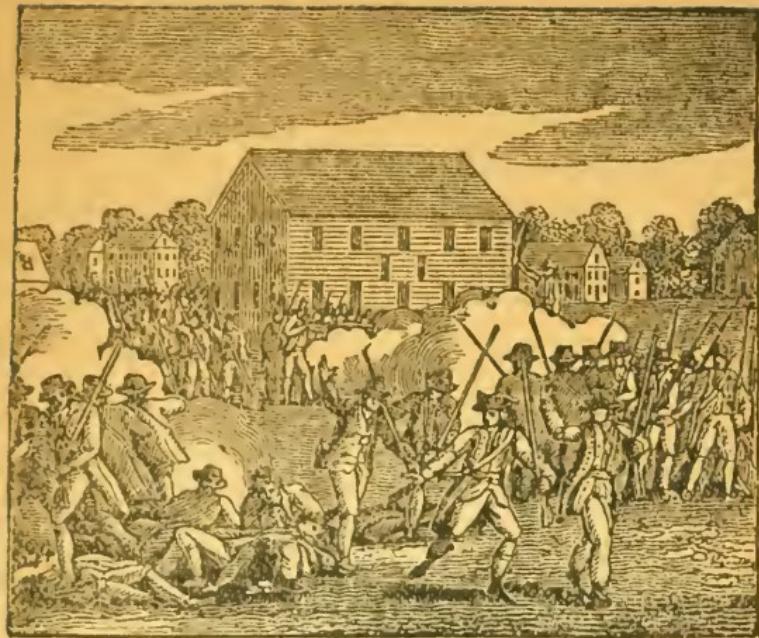


THE earliest trace of our system of free schools is to be found on the Boston records, under date of April 13, 1635, where it is stated to have been "agreed upon that our brother, Philemon Purmont, shall be entreated to become schoolmaster, for the teaching and nurturing of children with us." Whether Mr. P. consented to serve the town, does not appear; but another person, Mr. Daniel Maude, was "also chosen" to the office of "free schoolmaster," in August, 1636.

The first provision for the support of schools seems to have been made as voluntary contribution. There is a subscription recorded, on the last leaf of the oldest volume of town records, which, though the first line is illegible, is plainly discerned to be "towards the maintenance of —— free schoolmaster." It is headed by "the Governor, Mr. Henry Vane, Esq.," who puts down £10, as do also the Dep. Gov. Mr. John Winthrop, and Mr. Richard Bellingham. Forty-two other persons subscribe according to their ability, some 30s. and some as low as 4s., making in all about the sum of £40. In 1641, the income from Deer Island was appropriated for the school's use, and in other years the rents of that and other islands were devoted to the same purpose. Under date of 1645, Gov. Winthrop notes in his Journal, that "divers free schools were erected," and observes that, at Boston, they made an order to allow forever £50 per ann. for the master, and a house,—and £30 to an usher, who should also teach to read, write, and cipher—and the charge was to be defrayed "by yearly contributions, either by voluntary allowance or by rate of such as refused."

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In 1671, Mr. Ezekiel Cheever took the principal charge of the school. Mr. C. had been a distin-



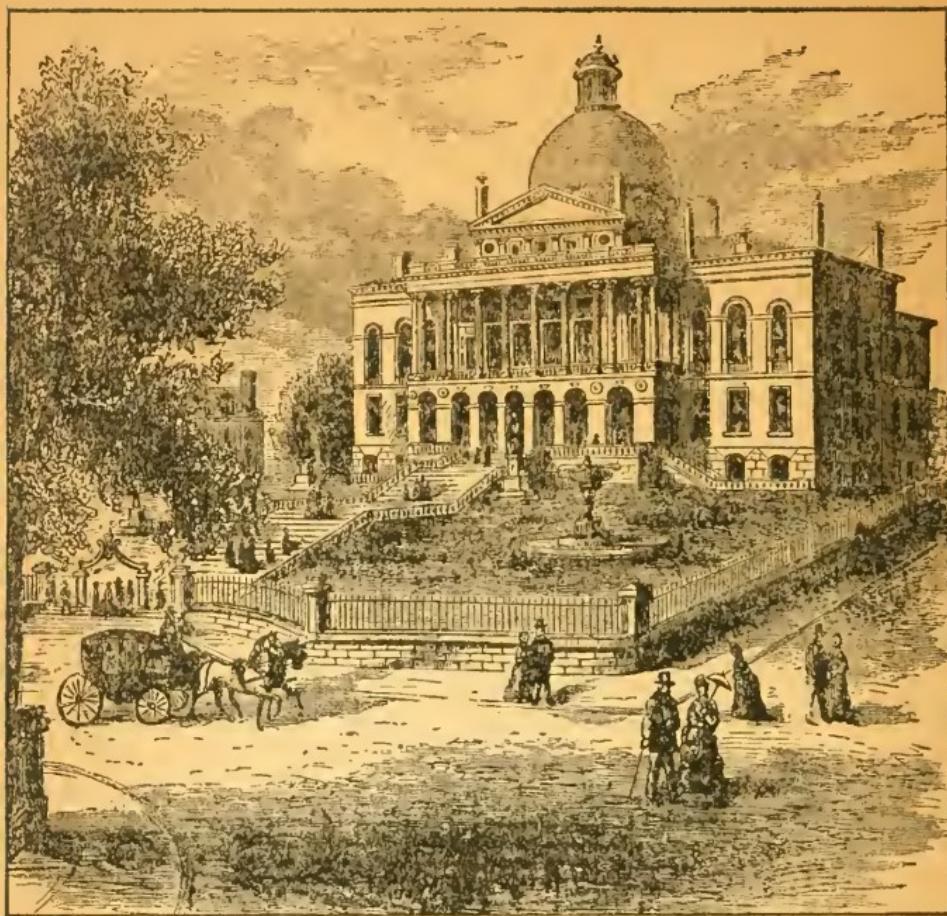
The Battle of Lexington.

guished instructor in various parts of New England, and his reputation was not diminished by his career in this place; under him the grammar school of Boston attained the rank of "the principal school of the British Colonies, if not in all America."

Several persons have been licensed to keep private schools "to teach children to write and keep accounts;" but there is no reason to suppose that there had been more than one publick school, prior to 1684. In April, 1683, the town voted to provide two schools, and to allow £25 per ann. for the support of each, with the understanding "that such persons as send their children to the school, that are able, should pay something to the master for his better encouragement."

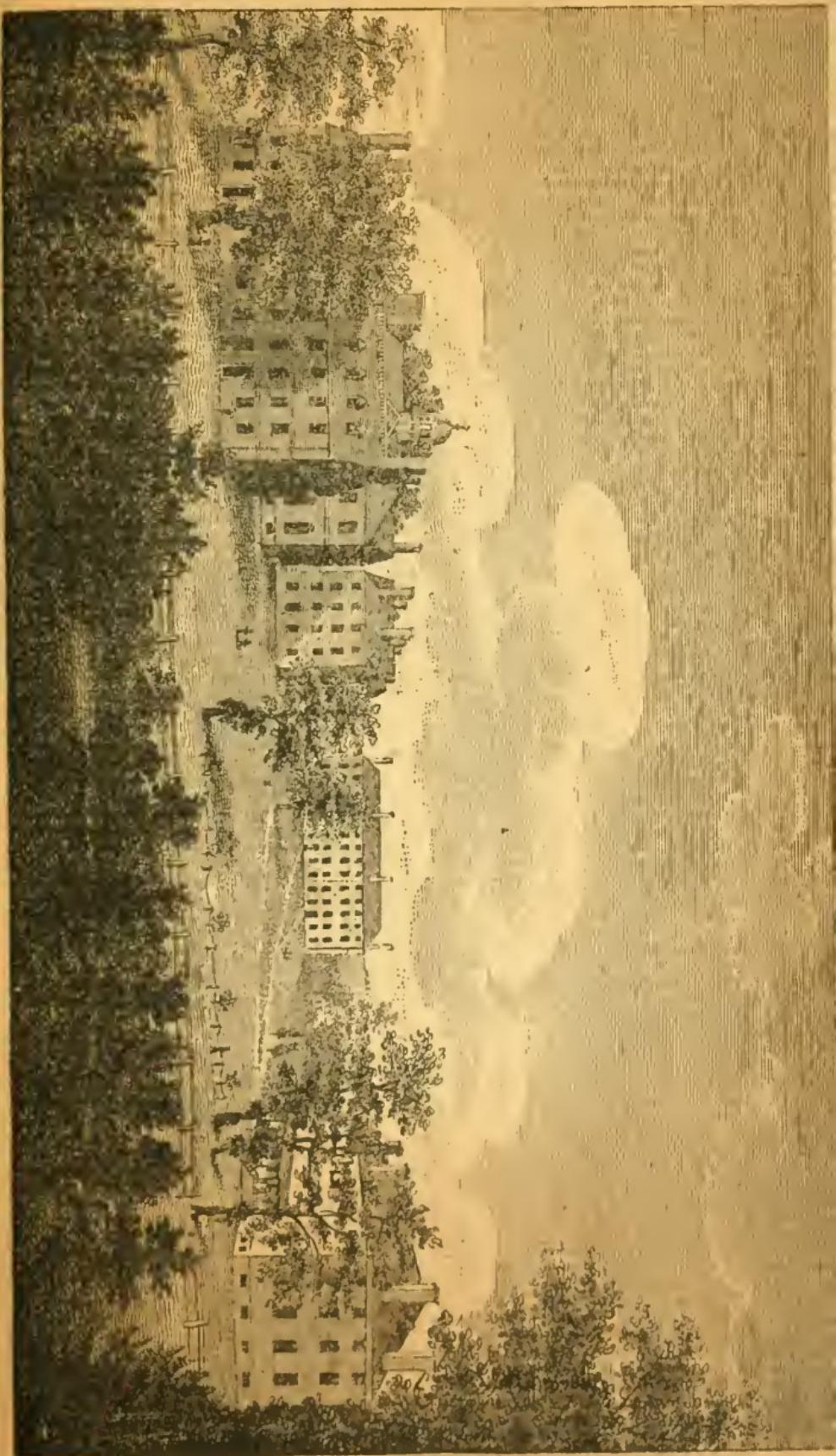
The original Latin school-house was located on the north side of School-street, at the southeast corner of the Chapel burying-ground, nearly opposite to the present school-house. One of the writing schools was kept in Court-street, and the other, we suppose, at the north part of the town.

In the Hutchinson MS. we find the following order of Gov. Andros, dated Boston, the 24th of

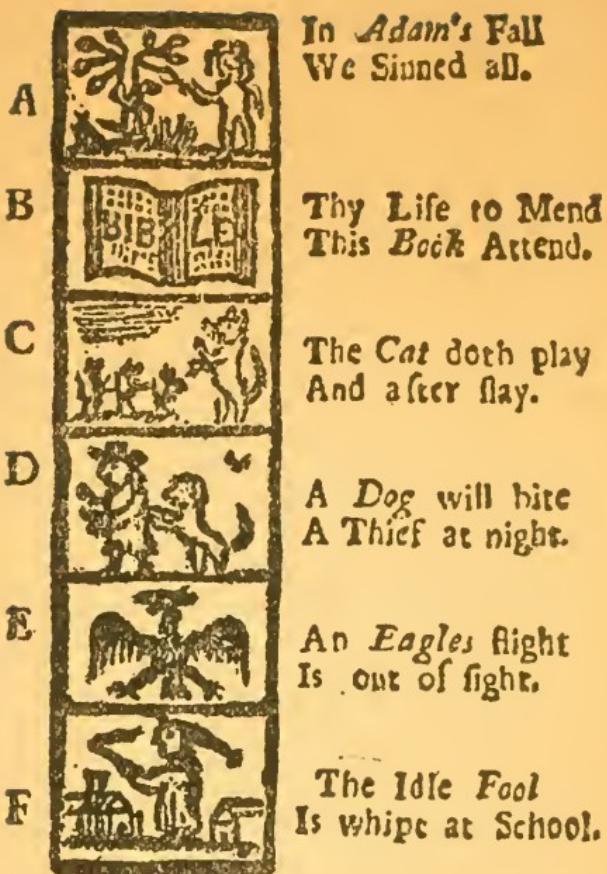


The New State Houfe.

May, 1687 : "By his Ex.'s command. Upon the petition of Joshua Natstock, and recommendation of many of the inh. of the N. part of the town of B., I do hereby appoint the said Joshua to be master of the publick school there, and to have and enjoy such profits and benefits and advantages, as have been heretofore paid and allowed to his predecessors." It was a favorite object with Councilor Randolph to have all the schools supplied with masters of the persuasion of the C. of England. When Andros's power ceased, the town lost no time in voting (1689) that the custom and practice of managing free schools be restored and continued.



South View of the Several Halls of Harvard College, 1822.



The New England Primer.

Two grammar and three writing schools were the only publick schools in Boston, before the Revolution. They were under the inspection of the selectmen and "a certain number of gentlemen of liberal education, together with some of the reverend ministers," whose custom it was to make an annual report to the town of the state of the schools. In 1742, when the population of the town was 16,382, there were reported a total of 535 present. At the visitation July 1, 1772, there were present 823 scholars.

During the siege the town schools were suspended; a few children attended the instructions of Mr. Elias Dupee, who remained in Boston, and gratuitously devoted himself to his employment of a teacher, in which he took peculiar delight. November 8, 1776, there was a vote of the town, that the

schools should be opened under the direction of the selectmen ; and we soon find them all in successful operation.

The concerns of the schools were conducted in the usual train until the year 1789. On the 23d of September that year, a committee was appointed, of one from each ward, to draft a new system of education. Their report, which was adopted, proposed to continue but one (the south) Latin Grammar School, and to establish three reading schools, in apartments separate from the three writing schools. Candidates for admission were required to be seven years of age, "having previously received the instruction usual at women's schools." Children of both sexes were to be admitted, boys for the year round, and girls from April to October, "to be taught to spell, accent, and read prose and verse, and also to be instructed in English grammar and composition."

* * * * *

Sunday Schools were revived in the town, in the year 1816, in which it was the object of the managers, besides conveying religious instruction, to fit their charge for the English Grammar Schools; but the number which needed to be thus fitted proved to be so great, that many citizens became desirous that something should be done by the town toward the same object. A petition was presented that free schools might be established for children between the age of four and seven years. A committee was appointed to ascertain the number of children throughout the town, who did not attend any school, and the number that attended private schools, and this examination resulted, 1818, in the establishment of the Board of Primary Schools.

* * * * *

The complete success, which immediately attended the institution of primary schools, produced a very strong feeling in favour of publick edu-

tion, and created a seasonable opportunity for gratifying the wishes of those who had been long calling for a school, in which such as have not a desire, or lack the means to pursue a collegiate education, might receive instruction in some branches of great practical importance, usually taught only at colleges. The plan for the establishment of the English Classical School (now called the English High School) was adopted in 1820, and the school went into operation in May, 1821. The principal instructor was Mr. Geo. B. Emerson. The higher branches of mathematicks, natural and moral philosophy, natural and civil history, natural theology and evidences of christianity, composition, declamation, and instruction in the French language, constitute the course pursued at this school.

* * * * *

One of the laft acts of the town of Boston (before its incorporation as a city) was a provision for the erection of the English grammar and writing school, now called Hancock School, in Hanover-street, which went into operation, June, 1823.

Under the city charter the care and superintendence of the publick schools devolves on the School Committee, composed of one member for each ward, together with the Mayor and Aldermen. * * * * The summer visitation has been aptly called the City Commencement. The ambition of the children is excited to display their several acquirements to the best advantage, and the exhibition of the Latin and High Schools may be truly said to fall little short of similar exercises at College. Three of the best boys in each of the schools annually receive, on these occasions, a silver medal, "the gift of Franklin," as "a reward of merit." The girls also receive rewards at the expence of the city. The emulation excited in the contest for these marks of distinction is confined to

a laudable ambition and, by its happy effects on the discipline of the schools and on the character of the scholars, evinces the wisdom of the great man, who bequeathed these memorials of his love to his native town.—*History of Boston, Caleb H. Snow, M. D., Boston, 1825.*

How to Reach Boston.

 **T**used to be said by the ancients that all roads lead to Rome. So all roads lead to Boston, which has been aptly styled the "Hub of the Universe," but the best of all roads is the Michigan Central, "The Niagara Falls Route," which runs four fast and elegantly equipped trains daily between Chicago and Boston, via Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Buffalo.

The passenger on the Michigan Central Railroad either east or west bound, enjoys not only the advantage of passing directly by and in full view of the great cataract, with a stop of five minutes at Falls View Station, a privilege that no other line can afford, but is also afforded the opportunity of stopping over en route at Niagara Falls, for a period not exceeding ten days from time of deposit of tickets under conditions which the passenger can learn of the Ticket Agent or the Train Conductor.

If one can stop but a day or two, he should by all means do so, that he may see Niagara in detail and from every point of view. No matter how often nor how long the observant tourist stops at Niagara, he will be sure to see something unseen before, in this "vast and prodigious cadence of water."

For further information, address, O. W. Ruggles, G. P. & T A., Chicago, L. D. Heusner, Gen'l Western Passenger Agent, 119 Adams Street, Chicago, or any Michigan Central Agent.

N



*Nightingales sing
In Time of Spring.*

O



*The Royal Oak
it was the Tree
That sav'd His
Royal Majestie.*

P



*Peter denies
His Lord and cries.*

Q



*Queen Esther comes
in Royal State
To Save the JEWS
from dismal Fate*

R



*Rachol doth mourn,
For her first born.*

S



*Samuel anoints
Whom God appoints*

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